

Old First Presbyterian Church  
South Park Drive at the foot  
of West Street  
Wilmington  
New Castle County  
Delaware

HABS No. DE-202

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DEL,  
2-WILM,  
49-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE DELAWARE	COUNTY NEW CASTLE	TOWN OR VICINITY WILMINGTON
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OLD (CHURCH RECORDS)		HABS NO. DE-202
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) South Park Drive at the foot of West Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1746	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) None	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This was the first Presbyterian church to be established in Wilmington. Architecturally it is a fine example of the mid-eighteenth century ecclesiastical style of construction. Only a few buildings of this date today remain in as good condition.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick bearing wall on stone foundation, wood floors and joists, wood shingle gambrel roof, wood windows and doors		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular; approximately 20' X 30'		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Red brick walls laid partially in Flemish bond with glazed headers and partially in English bond, a wood shingle gambrel roof with the shingle pent on the end walls, one-story with round-arched windows and door surrounds, fanlight with decorative tracery above the two double doors		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Single room with barrel-vaulted ceiling above a heavy wooden cornice, a paneled wooden wainscot and a reconstructed raised pulpit with a reader's desk surmounted by a sounding board.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Converted to Sunday School, c. 1840; converted for use as headquarters of the Historical Society of Delaware, 1878; moved from original location at 10th and Market, 1919; restored c. 1919; additional exterior restoration c. 1978		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE It is in excellent condition and since 1919 has been the headquarters of the Delaware chapter of the Colonial Dames in America		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register of Historic Places; Delaware Cultural Resource Survey (DE-342)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Joan N. Larrivee, State of Delaware, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs		DATE May 22, 1986